

Agenda Item: 2

Date: January 27, 2021

Commission Action Date: February 2, 2021

**TO:** Arts & Culture Commission**FROM:** Kathryn Dippong Lawson, Recreation Supervisor  
Emily Fox, Recreation Manager**SUBJECT:** Cultural Funding Grant Program – Approval of Awards**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Arts & Culture Commission approve the 2021 Cultural Funding Grant Program award recommendations provided by the peer review panel.

**DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS**

The City of Ventura Cultural Funding Grant Program was introduced in 1993. The grant program was established to:

- Support Ventura's cultural infrastructure of arts organizations and artists.
- Ensure comprehensive access to and involvement in cultural opportunities by all segments of the community.
- Support economic development and increase tourism.
- Enhance lifelong learning opportunities in the arts for all ages.

As per the Cultural Funding Grant guidelines, the following peer review panelists were selected ([Attachment A](#)):

1. Arts & Culture Commissioner, Ken May
2. Visual Artist, Ryan Carr
3. Performing Artist / Arts Educator, Meredith Cabaniss
4. Ventura Resident, Stephanie Houge
5. Outside Grant Funding Expert, Katie Deutschman

Twelve Cultural Funding Grant Program (CFGF) applications were submitted by the November 19, 2020 deadline. In early December, the peer review panelists received their grant review binders.

Additionally, panelists were provided access to the cloud-based SharePoint site where online applications, supplemental materials, and applicant video presentations were stored.

On Thursday, January 7, 2021 the peer review panel met virtually with staff to discuss each grant application and review the initial panelist scoring averages received prior to the meeting.

As established in the Cultural Funding Grant Program application packet ([Attachment B](#)), each application was scored based on the following weighted criteria:

- 25% - Artistic Excellence / Merit
- 25% - Organizational & Fiscal Capacity
- 25% - Community Impact & Evaluation
- 25% - Cultural Diversity

After discussion and deliberation, the panel made their funding recommendations, with funding levels determined by panel consensus ([Attachment C](#)).

It is recommended that the Arts & Culture Commission approve the 2021 Cultural Funding Grant Program award recommendations provided by the peer review panel.

### **ALTERNATIVE**

The Commission may choose to modify the funding amounts before approving the peer review panel's award recommendations.

Prepared by Kathryn Dippong Lawson, Recreation Supervisor